

we do not do because our quorum requirements are a majority. But in State legislatures, particularly in Texas, it has been almost a tradition. In 1979, the State Senate broke the quorum because of an election bill that was being considered. In 1981, when I was a House member, we tried to break the quorum after midnight on a Saturday night on a congressional redistricting bill. We were not nearly as organized as these folks because we only slowed it down for about 3 hours and members of the Statehouse were found in closets and air vents and everything else in the State capital.

But breaking the quorum is not a new legislative tool. In fact, Abraham Lincoln participated in an attempt to break quorums in 1840 during one of his terms in Illinois' House of Representatives.

□ 1800

On one of those days, Democrats wanted a quorum, the Whigs at that time, the predecessors to our Republicans, did not, so the Democrats locked the doors to the House to keep the Members inside the Chamber. Lincoln and two of his fellow Whigs jumped out the window to avoid being locked inside, but their efforts failed, mainly for procedures, because it seemed they had already voted for a motion to adjourn, and in doing so they helped make that quorum which they were trying to break in their hasty departure. Even a former President and a Republican President tried to break a quorum in 1840, so that is a history.

These Members of the Texas Legislature, like I said, who are doing this have a tradition in Texas of using every legislative vehicle for their issues and their concerns. Obviously this redistricting map is the most god-awful-looking map I have ever seen, and, again, having been involved for many years as a State legislator.

In a letter to the Texas House Speaker Tom Craddick, these legislators who are currently living very high in a Holiday Inn and eating at Denny's in Oklahoma said, "We love the house and take seriously our responsibility to serve our constituents and protect their best interests in the legislature. Our actions fall entirely within house rules. While disappointed that we were forced to break a quorum, our decision was driven by our solemn duty to fight for and protect the rights and interests of those who we were elected to serve in the legislature."

#### TEXAS REDISTRICTING

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CHOCOLA). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I had prepared a little bit different remarks, but after listening to the last few speakers, particularly our good friend

the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BAR-TON), who spoke earlier about the shape of some of the districts and some of what happened with the development of this redistricting plan in Texas, I thought it might be appropriate to show some of the comparisons.

I also listened a few minutes ago to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER) talk about those wonderful people who spent so much time searching for the remains of the Columbia after its dissolution on its return from space. What a magnificent bunch of people who spent so much of their time and effort trying to pick up the pieces to that spacecraft and to find the heroes who died in that craft.

It is interesting that some of what has transpired with this redistricting can be directly affected to my work that I have put forth in behalf of the Johnson Space Center and the magnificent people who live in that Clearlake area of southeast Houston and north Galveston County. Those are areas that, through this redistricting plan, all the work that I have done in working on the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics could very easily be moved away from the Ninth Congressional District, a part of an area that has been represented continuously for over three decades. The community of interest there could very likely be dissolved because of this.

We have talked about gerrymandering. We have talked about the creation of congressional districts that split communities, that literally take away communities of influence, centers of influence, that communities have been together for a very, very long time.

What it does do as an example in my home county of Jefferson in southeast Texas where recently we had a redistricting for the State senate, Jefferson County was split into two different parts for the first time in the history of that county, since 1835. What it does do is to take a part of the southern part of Jefferson County and connect it to a much larger population area in basically the city of Houston. It takes the northern part of that county and brings it over into another part of the city of Houston.

The city of Houston is wonderful, and I represent part of it, but so is the city of Beaumont. What happens is that the people who live in Houston now can control the future of the city of Beaumont, because a large number of people in one part of that district will determine who the Representative will be, Democrat or Republican, and consequently a center that is completely different, a center of influence around Beaumont or Port Arthur, Texas, becomes watered down, and it does not matter whether they are represented by a Democrat or a Republican, they are going to not be able to express their interests in the same way, and they certainly will not be able to elect a Representative of either party that is going to be controlled by the larger area of population.

The current districts of Texas look like this. This was a map that was drawn and approved by a Federal district court in Texas, made up of two Democrats and one Republican. The districts are reasonably compact. The Ninth Congressional District is one that also is reasonably compact, including all of Jefferson County, Chambers County, Galveston County and a part of Harris County over here where the Johnson Space Center is. We will see, potentially see, hopefully we will not see, but under this plan the State of Texas is proposing to change that district to look like this, where it splits this county, it splits this county, Chambers, and moves into Harris County in a very convoluted, gerrymandered area.

The interesting thing about this particular map is that the center of influence changes away from all of this area, because over 400,000 people live in this squiggly little part of inner-city Houston over here, connected and controlling the interests of the people who live in this much larger area. That is not fair. That is not fair to the citizens who have a specific interest different than the interests of those folks over there.

We will talk more about this. I hope that my colleagues and my friends across the country will also be looking at how this is developing and why it is unfair to the citizens, not to the elected officials.

#### IN SUPPORT OF TEXAS REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, once again I rise today to salute the 53 Texas State House representatives who have taken a courageous stand to preserve justice and democracy in Texas. As those courageous representatives said in a written statement, "We are taking a stand for fair play for all Texans. We refuse to participate in an inherently unfair process that slams the door of opportunity in the face of Texas voters."

TOM DELAY's arguments for redistricting Texas all over again cannot hide the real partisan power grab at work here or the unfair process he has engineered that short-circuits the ability of Texas voters to express their views. First, DELAY argued that the U.S. Constitution requires the State legislature to replace the court-ordered district lines with its own redistricting plan in time for the 2004 election. But the Texas State attorney general concluded that the legislature has no constitutional or legal obligation to redraw congressional districts. He decided that DELAY was flat wrong in his argument that the current district lines are only temporary and that the legislature has a mandated responsibility to redraw them in time for the next election.